



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Our beginnings in Europe and America. How civilization grew in the old world and came to the new. By Smith Burnham, A.M. (Philadelphia and Chicago: John C. Winston company, 1918. 375 p. \$.84)

This volume has been prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the "committee of eight" of the American historical association. It covers two grades of elementary school work: the elements of ancient and modern history for the sixth grade and early American history for the seventh grade. The recommendations of the committee of eight are a complete vindication of the methods of the immortal Peter Parley — once so universally popular and then for a generation discredited — and the book under discussion is essentially Peter Parley up to date. It has the advantage of fifty years of scientific scholarship.

The work has been well done: the book furnishes an outline of world history in which matters of importance have been included and matters of less significance excluded with excellent historical judgment. Chapters on primeval man and early antiquity, the Greeks, the Romans, early Christianity, the beginning of the middle ages, early English history, life in the middle ages, and the growth of the English nation present in rapid survey the preliminary knowledge necessary for an understanding of American history.

In the latter half of the volume, chapters on "The Europe which found America," "The east and west," and "How Europe found America" treat with sufficient fullness pre-Columbian conditions and the story of the discovery. The Spanish empire and the first English attempts at settlement follow. A chapter is devoted to the settlement of Virginia and Maryland. The colonization of Virginia is given rather too briefly and without sufficient emphasis on its importance — a common fault in American school histories. New England and other colonies are treated satisfactorily, especially New England.

The book is written in an easy and interesting style and the successive contributions to American civilization are clearly pointed out. It is an excellent work for preliminary history teaching.

H. J. E.

New American history. By Albert Bushnell Hart, LL.D., professor of government, Harvard university. (New York: American book company, 1917. 650 p.)

This is a revision of the author's *Essentials in American history*, which was first published in 1905, and is intended to be used as a text in the high school. The high scholarship of the author is sufficient guarantee of the historical accuracy of the subject matter of the book. The illustrations are numerous and apt. The maps are excellent. On these points

all will probably agree. But there is room for a difference of opinion as to the author's method of presentation. On the whole, the book takes the form of a compendium dealing with a great many different topics; hence the treatment of these topics is usually very brief, and frequently statements are made which, while perfectly clear to the special student of history, are likely to be rather difficult of comprehension to the average high school student. The growth of our national history will require brevity and still more brevity in the future textbooks if they are to be compendiums and if they do not exceed the number of pages fixed by the publishers. The alternative method of presentation is by way of carefully formulating a few rather definite problems in American history and eliminating all matter that does not bear upon the solution of those problems. Such a method permits, as a rule, a fuller treatment of what is presented than the other method does. As yet no history textbook has been constructed along the line of the problem method, but such a book will have many things in its favor when it does appear. Mr. Hart's original *Essentials* was among the popular texts throughout the country and no doubt this recent revision will have a good following. It unquestionably compares favorably with the books that are current.

E. M. VIOLETTE

Story of agriculture in the United States. By Albert H. Sanford, professor of history, State normal school, Lacrosse, Wisconsin. (Chicago: D. C. Heath and company, 1916. 394 p. \$1.00)

The author explains that this book "is intended primarily for boys and girls who live on farms"; though he expresses the hope "that it will be of interest to others, many of whom may have had experiences similar to those here recorded." He has therefore endeavored "merely to gather as far as they are now available, the more important facts of our agricultural history, and to enliven the account with interesting details and descriptions." Judged from this standpoint, it may be said that the work has been well done, for the story has been written in an interesting and instructive manner. As such it should be welcomed by teachers of American history in both rural and city schools, and it should make an appeal to general readers interested in our agricultural development.

The story begins with an interesting chapter on Indian agriculture in America, which is followed by five chapters descriptive of rural economy in the colonies and one chapter on conditions in the "back country" in the eighteenth century. The interest of leading statesmen in agriculture is emphasized; among these may be mentioned Washington, Franklin, and Jefferson. The westward movement of pioneer and planter into the Mississippi valley is treated in some half-dozen chapters which bring the narrative down to the civil war, the effect of which is then duly recorded.